From: Lew Perin
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 10:29am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I understand that the proposed Microsoft antitrust settlement extends no rights over documentation, APIs and communication protocols to nonprofit competitors of Microsoft.

This is a serious flaw and it affects the software development work I do for my employer, Cornell Medical College. We depend on, among other nonprofit software packages, the Apache web server, which is maintained and developed by the nonprofit Apache Foundation and which Microsoft is trying to conquer with its IIS product. If the Apache foundation is unable to have accurate knowledge of how to interoperate with Microsoft software the Apache web server will become useless to my employer.

I mention Apache only as a particularly clear example; there are others I could cite. The point here is that ignoring the nonprofit competitors of Microsoft puts the ultimate users of software at a disadvantage. Surely you understand that it is the consumers who are the main party antitrust law is designed to protect.

Yours, Lew Perin